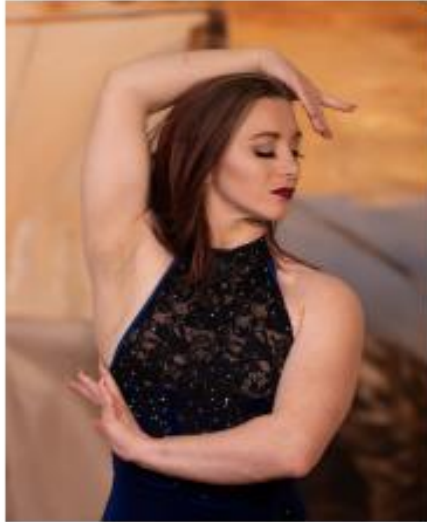


LAUREN ASHTON

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Lauren Ashton is a freelance professional dancer, dance teacher and certified personal trainer based in Palmerston North.

From the age of 2, Lauren has had rhythm in her bones. Beginning ballet lessons at McQueen School of Dance in Taihape as soon as she was allowed. Through the years Lauren has completed exams to a high level in Ballet, Character & Tap (B.A.L) and Jazz & American Jazz (NZAMD) concluding with Solo Performance Diploma in Jazz. Lauren started travelling to competitions all over the mid-lower North Island performing ballet and jazz from around the age of 4.

Lauren also spent many years taking singing and music lessons and treading the boards in several musical theatre productions throughout high school, attending vocal competitions and completing her First Concert Certificate from Trinity College London. At age 17 Lauren flew the coop to Sydney, Australia to study full time performing arts at Brent Street.

Following 6 years spent living and working in Australia and Ireland, Lauren returned home to settle down. Around 2012 she joined the committee for the Wanganui Competitions Society and began volunteering at the very competitions she came up in. As a performer, Lauren has spent the past 9 years performing and competing across New Zealand, Australia, USA, Canada and Germany. Her favourite highlights are dancing in an RNZB production of The Nutcracker in 1995, playing the part of Maisie in The Boyfriend with Taihape Drama Group in 2004 and regular feature performances at events like Aethercon! Steampunk Festival in Wellington, The Art Deco Festival & Winter Deco in Napier and Whanganui Vintage Weekend.